

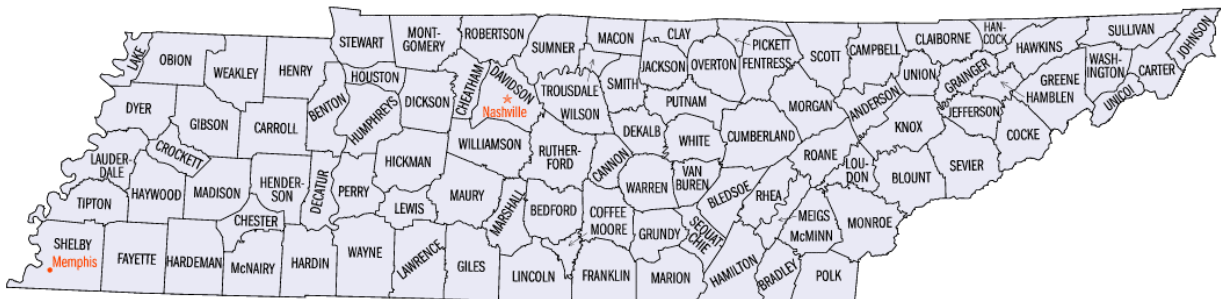
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of Tennessee

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Tennessee**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 5,797,289 (July 2002 estimate); 5,689,283 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity: 79.2% white, 16.3% black/African American, 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.0% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander; 0.1% some other race; 1.0% two or more races; 2.2% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

### **Politics**

- Governor: Phil Bredesen<sup>2</sup>
- Secretary of State: Riley Darnell<sup>3</sup>
- Attorney General: Paul G. Summers<sup>4</sup>
- U.S. Senate: Lamar Alexander (R), William H. Frist (R)<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. House of Representatives: William Jenkins (R), John Duncan, Jr. (R), Zach Wamp (R), Lincoln Davis (D), Jim Cooper (D), Bart Gordon (D), Marsha Blackburn (R), John Tanner (D), Harold Ford, Jr. (D)<sup>6</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>7</sup>  
The Appalachia HIDTA was designated in 1998 and is responsible for counties in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee. The following counties in Tennessee are included: Bledsoe, Campbell, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Grainger, Greene, Grundy, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Macon, Marion, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rhea, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Unicoi, Van Buren, and White counties.
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services<sup>8</sup>  
This program funds treatment, intervention and rehabilitation services for thousands of Tennesseans each year through community-based outpatient and residential treatment facilities across the state. This program also funds prevention activities designed to prevent alcohol and other drug abuse among youth and adults.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Tennessee:<sup>9</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$84,155 to Trenton Housing Authority, Trenton;
  - FY 2001: \$100,000 to The Metropolitan Drug Commission, Knoxville;
  - FY 2000: \$83,404 to the City of Jackson, Jackson;
  - FY 1999: \$100,000 to Alcohol and Drug Council for Middle Tennessee Inc., Nashville;
  - FY 1998: \$89,051 to University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Formula and Discretionary Grant summary for Tennessee:<sup>10</sup>
  - Formula Funding: \$38,445,592

- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant: \$29,240,906
- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$8,217,543
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH): \$475,000
- Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant: \$512,143
- Discretionary Funding: \$9,120,344
  - Mental Health: \$4,518,199
  - Substance Prevention: \$1,151,152
  - Substance Abuse Treatment: \$3,450,993
- Total Mental Health Funds: \$13,722,885
- Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$33,843,051
- Total Funds for Tennessee: \$47,565,936
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>11</sup>

There are seven Weed and Seed sites in Tennessee, including Bristol, Cleveland, Chattanooga, Dyersburg, Humboldt, Jackson, and Memphis.
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to Tennessee: \$9,586,474<sup>12</sup>
- FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court amounts received in Tennessee:<sup>13</sup>
  - \$499,245 to the Town of Erwin Mayor's Office for drug court implementation;
  - \$500,000 to Lawrence County Drug Court, Lawrence County government for drug court implementation;
  - \$500,000 to Fifteenth Judicial District Wilson County government for drug court implementation;
  - \$480,198 to Blount County government, Blount County Juvenile Drug Court for drug court implementation;
  - \$500,000 to State of Tennessee Administration, Office of the Courts-Williamson County for drug court implementation
- FY 1996-2002 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to Tennessee:<sup>14</sup>
  - FY 1996: \$386,282
  - FY 1997: \$429,317
  - FY 1998: \$898,151
  - FY 1999: \$917,492
  - FY 2000: \$916,379
  - FY 2001: \$1,051,974
  - FY 2002: \$1,181,689
- FY 2002 Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant awarded in Tennessee:<sup>15</sup>
  - \$222,222 to Anderson County Sheriff's Department;
  - \$222,222 to Cumberland County Sheriff's Department;
  - \$222,222 to Madison County Sheriff's Department
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant recipients in Tennessee:<sup>16</sup>
  - \$125,000 to Knoxville's Community Development Corporation, Knoxville;
  - \$125,000 to Warren and Tulane Associates, LTD, Memphis;
  - \$125,000 to Urban Housing Solutions, Nashville

### Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- During 1999, there were 15,283 drug abuse violation arrests in Tennessee.<sup>17</sup> This number increased to 17,828 during 2000.<sup>18</sup> During 2001, there were 21,579 drug abuse violation arrests in Tennessee.<sup>19</sup>

Number of Arrests, Selected Offenses, Tennessee, 1999-2001

Offense	1999	2000	2001
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	326	159	191
Forcible rape	213	197	237
Robbery	1,047	898	1,183
Aggravated assault	5,600	6,907	8,087
Burglary	2,447	2,918	3,047
Larceny-theft	18,879	15,166	17,956
Motor vehicle theft	1,180	1,259	1,690
Arson	135	195	256
Drug abuse violations	15,283	17,828	21,579
DUI	14,744	18,628	23,668
Liquor laws	4,849	5,062	5,336
Drunkenness	17,171	18,621	20,087

- During 2001, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 571 arrests for drug violations in Tennessee.<sup>20</sup>

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Tennessee, 1997-2001

Year	Number of Arrests
1997	474
1998	526
1999	600
2000	597
2001	571

### Drugs

- Cocaine  
Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, poses the greatest threat to Tennessee. Crack cocaine and powder cocaine are readily available. Most of the powder cocaine available in the State is converted to crack cocaine locally. Powder cocaine sold for \$14,000 to \$30,000 per kilogram and \$90 per gram during 2000. Purity levels for powder cocaine vary throughout the State. Powder cocaine wholesale purity levels range from 50-98%, while retail purity levels range from 10-85%. Crack cocaine retail purity levels range from 10-95%.<sup>21</sup> Many of the violent crimes in the state are directly associated with the distribution and abuse of cocaine HCL and crack.<sup>22</sup>
- Heroin  
Heroin is the least significant illicit drug threat in Tennessee. Mexican brown powdered heroin is available in small quantities and South American heroin is rarely available. Most heroin in the State is destined for other markets.<sup>23</sup> The drugs of choice

for the local opiate addict population are diverted pharmaceutical drugs, such as Percodan, Percocet, and Oxycodone.<sup>24</sup>

- **Methamphetamine**  
Methamphetamine is considered the third greatest drug threat and is becoming increasingly available. The production, distribution, and abuse of methamphetamine are associated with violent crimes, although considerably less than cocaine.<sup>25</sup>
- **Marijuana**  
Marijuana continues to be the drug of choice across the state, and Tennessee remains one of the top producers of marijuana. Tennessee is one of the five states known as “the Marijuana Belt.” This area is an ideal climate for marijuana cultivation and the poverty and rural geography facilitate marijuana production and transportation across county and state lines. Marijuana has become a large component of the local economy, and competition to distribute the drug has increased the drug-related violence in the state.<sup>26</sup>
- **Club Drugs**  
Tennessee has a growing club drug problem, with MDMA (ecstasy), LSD and GHB being the most common drugs of abuse.<sup>27</sup> MDMA sold for \$6 to \$18 wholesale and \$26 retail in 2000.<sup>28</sup>
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**  
Dilaudid and OxyContin are two of the most frequently diverted and abused pharmaceuticals in Tennessee.<sup>29</sup> The diversion and abuse of pharmaceuticals, especially OxyContin, represents a significant threat to Tennessee.<sup>30</sup>
- According to the 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 48% of Tennessee citizens felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>31</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, Tennessee, 1999-2000 Data

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	9.49	14.83	4.02	5.94
Past month use of marijuana	6.57	11.23	2.88	4.31
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	5.45	6.06	1.73	2.65
Past year cocaine use	1.67	3.89	1.49	1.81
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	38.86	30.68	52.19	48.12

- According to 2000 data from National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, approximately 1.3% of Tennessee citizens reported past year dependence on illicit drugs.<sup>32</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Past Year Dependence, Tennessee, 2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Illicit drug dependence	2.91	3.67	0.72	1.31
Illicit drug dependence or abuse	4.99	5.45	0.92	1.90
Alcohol dependence	1.68	4.44	2.25	2.47
Alcohol or illicit drug dependence or abuse	8.85	14.18	4.47	6.14

## Juveniles

- During 1999, there were 1,796 juvenile drug abuse violation arrests in Tennessee.<sup>33</sup> This number increased to 1,830 during 2000.<sup>34</sup> During 2001, there were 2,279 drug abuse violation arrests in Tennessee.<sup>35</sup>

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Tennessee, 1999-2001

Offense	1999	2000	2001
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	21	8	4
Forcible rape	22	32	53
Robbery	158	120	179
Aggravated assault	558	600	720
Burglary	566	651	650
Larceny-theft	4,571	3,483	3,935
Motor vehicle theft	291	350	394
Arson	57	36	49
Drug abuse violations	1,796	1,830	2,279
DUI	144	147	231
Liquor laws	715	962	1,104
Drunkenness	321	324	408

- During 2001, 47% of Tennessee high school students reported using marijuana during their lifetime.<sup>36</sup>

Percent of High School Students Using Selected Drugs, Tennessee, 2001

Drug Type and Use	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	42.7	51.4	47.0
Current marijuana use	20.5	26.8	23.8
Lifetime cocaine use	8.3	10.5	9.3
Current cocaine use	2.4	5.0	3.7
Lifetime use of inhalants	14.2	13.5	13.8
Current use of inhalants	3.3	4.3	3.8
Lifetime use of heroin	2.4	3.5	2.9
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.5	11.4	11.0
Lifetime illegal steroid use	5.7	7.6	6.6
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	2.0	2.9	2.4
Tried marijuana before age 13 years	8.5	15.8	12.2

## Enforcement

- As of October 31, 2001, there were 22,994 law enforcement employees in Tennessee (14,786 officers and 8,208 civilians).<sup>37</sup>
- Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication<sup>38</sup>  
Created in 1983, the Governor's Task Force on Marijuana Eradication (GTFME) works to seek out and eradicate marijuana found growing in the State of Tennessee, arrest and prosecute individuals who knowingly participate in this illegal activity, collect and utilize intelligence data, maintain accurate records of results and

expenditures connected with this program, and seeks to eliminate or disrupt illegal acts against the citizens of Tennessee related to marijuana cultivation through new methods and technology.

- Drug Investigation Division<sup>39</sup>  
Tennessee Bureau of Investigation's Drug Investigation Division investigates violations of Tennessee's drug control laws by gathering evidence, arresting violators, and assisting with subsequent prosecutions.
- Tennessee Highway Patrol<sup>40</sup>  
The Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program provides money for Operation No Drugs, funding overtime to be used for criminal interdiction enforcement. Criminal interdiction involves the suppression of narcotics on the roads, highways, and interstate systems in Tennessee.

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- During 2001, Federal authorities seized 484.2 kilograms of cocaine in Tennessee.<sup>41</sup>

Amount of Drugs Seized by Federal Agencies, Tennessee, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized (in kilograms)
Cocaine	484.2
Heroin	41.0
Methamphetamine	29.5
Marijuana	218.4

- Methamphetamine production and distribution are a difficult interdiction problem in the Tennessee area, according to the Multi-Jurisdictional Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces. Many manufacturers are attracted to the rural nature and challenging terrain within Tennessee which make it much more difficult for them to be apprehended. Manufacturing and cultivation operations find these attributes most useful for hiding sometimes-volatile methamphetamine labs.<sup>42</sup>
- Mexican criminal groups are the primary wholesale distributors of methamphetamine. Local independent Caucasian producers consume the majority of what they produce although they distribute small amounts to family and friends.<sup>43</sup>
- During 2001, there were 461 methamphetamine labs seized in Tennessee.<sup>44</sup>

Number of Methamphetamine Lab Seizures, Tennessee, 1996-2001

Year	Meth Lab Seizures
1996	2
1997	20
1998	55
1999	146
2000	246
2001	461

- Mexican criminal groups transport and distribute large quantities of marijuana into Tennessee. African American and other local street gangs distribute marijuana at the retail level.<sup>45</sup>

- During 2001, a total of 381,481 marijuana plants were eradicated in Tennessee under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>46</sup>

#### Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Tennessee, 2001

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
2,696	477,904	14	1,487	479,391

- Local independent Caucasian dealers usually distribute MDMA to teenagers and young adults at raves, dance clubs, bars, and college campuses.<sup>47</sup>
- Mexican criminal groups and African American street gangs are the primary transporters and wholesale distributors of cocaine in Tennessee.<sup>48</sup>

#### Courts

- As of January 8, 2003, there were 33 drug courts in Tennessee. There were 5 drug courts operating for over 2 years, 8 that were recently implemented, and 20 being planned.<sup>49</sup>
- During FY 2001, 44.4% of Federally sentenced defendants in Tennessee had committed drug offenses. Approximately 27.7% of these drug offenses involved powder cocaine.<sup>50</sup>

#### Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Tennessee, FY 2001

Offense Type Involved	Number	Percentage of Total
Powder cocaine	139	27.7%
Crack cocaine	111	22.2
Heroin	1	0.2
Methamphetamine	111	22.2
Marijuana	117	23.4
Other	22	4.4

#### Corrections<sup>51</sup>

- As of November 26, 2002, there were 16,984 males and 1,134 females assigned to Tennessee Department of Corrections facilities, for a total of 18,118 inmates in Tennessee's adult institutions.
- As of November 26, 2002, there were 35,828 offenders on probation and 7,921 on parole.
- As of September 2002, 12% of the Tennessee prison population were incarcerated for drug offenses.

#### Consequences of Use

- Of the 784 new cases of HIV in Tennessee, 79 (10%) were due to needle sharing related to injecting drug use.<sup>52</sup>



## Treatment

- During 2001, there were 2,771 (18.9%) persons admitted to substance abuse treatment in Tennessee for cocaine (smoked).<sup>53</sup>

### Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions, Tennessee, 2001

	Number	Percent
Alcohol only	4,367	29.9%
Alcohol with secondary drug	2,654	18.1
Cocaine (smoked)	2,771	18.9
Cocaine (other route)	568	3.9
Marijuana	1,773	12.1
Heroin	--	0.0
Other opiates	1,124	7.7
PCP	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	33	0.2
Amphetamines	325	2.2
Other stimulants	9	0.1
Tranquilizers	--	0.0
Sedatives	195	1.3
Inhalants	33	0.2
Other/unknown	775	5.3
Total	14,627	100.0

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>2</sup> Tennessee Governor's Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/governor/>

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee Secretary of State's Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/sos/soshmpg.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Tennessee Attorney General's Web site: <http://www.attorneygeneral.state.tn.us/>

<sup>5</sup> United States Senate Web site, Tennessee Members:  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm?State=TN](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=TN)

<sup>6</sup> United States House of Representatives Web site, Tennessee Representatives:  
<http://www.house.gov/MemStateSearch.html#TN>

<sup>7</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site:  
[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_appl.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_appl.html)

<sup>8</sup> Tennessee Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/health/A&D/index.htm>

<sup>9</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program, Tennessee: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/tn.html>

<sup>10</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>

<sup>11</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, Tennessee:  
<http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/tennessee.html>

<sup>12</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program State Allocations:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/html/FY2002BYRNE.htm>

<sup>13</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grants:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>

<sup>14</sup> Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY 2002 Corrections Program Grants, Tennessee:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/mapfiles/tn.htm>

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- <sup>18</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>
- <sup>19</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>
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- <sup>21</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Tennessee Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2002: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs1/1017/index.htm>
- <sup>22</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Tennessee State Factsheet: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/tennessee.html>
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- <sup>25</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *Tennessee Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2002: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs1/1017/index.htm>
- <sup>26</sup> Department of Finance, Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP), *Tennessee's 2000 –2002 Statewide Strategy for Drug Control, Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice Improvement*: <http://www.state.tn.us/finance/rds/byrnestratpv.pdf>
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- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> Drug Enforcement Administration, Tennessee State Factsheet: <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/states/tennessee.html>
- <sup>31</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *State Estimates of Substance Use from the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse: Volume I. Findings*, October 2002: [http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol1/OOSAERptVol1\\_W.pdf](http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/2kState/PDF/Vol1/OOSAERptVol1_W.pdf)
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- <sup>39</sup> Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Drug Investigation Division: <http://www.tbi.state.tn.us/divisions/did.htm>
- <sup>40</sup> Tennessee Highway Patrol Web site: <http://www.state.tn.us/safety/thp.html>
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<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/statistics/PdfFiles/thsr00.pdf>
- <sup>53</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, State Treatment Data, Tennessee, 2001:  
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